

Multicast Architecture for a Virtual Private Local Area Network Service  
In A Metro Ethernet Network

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0030] A centralized node (CM) for coupling into a computer network (10) along which network traffic flows between a plurality of nodes (PE<sub>x</sub>) in a form of packets. The centralized node is programmed to perform the step of identifying requirements of unicast packet traffic (10, Figure 1a) along the network, where the unicast packet traffic 5 identifies a first traffic configuration along the network. The centralized node is also programmed to perform the step of constructing a second traffic configuration (10, Figure 1b) along the network, differing from the first traffic configuration, wherein the second traffic configuration is for routing multicast packet traffic along the network